

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and system for providing network configuration and control information. The configuration and control information is encoded and used to modulate the data-carrying optical signal. Later network elements demodulate and decode the data to determine configuration and control commands and requests. A method of providing network configuration data comprises receiving a data-carrying optical signal; providing control information; modulating the data-carrying optical signal using the control information such that the optical signal carries both the data and the control information; and transmitting the modulated optical signal. A spatial light modulator, typically a micromirror array, may be used to modulate the optical signal.